

Chaplin Senior Center

Board of Directors

132 Chaplin Street

Chaplin, CT 06235

The Board of Directors for the Chaplin Senior Center met for its regular meeting on Tuesday, **March 5, 2024**, in the Senior Center craft room.

Members present: Chairperson Irene Schein, Ellen Gillon, Robin Hoagland, Carl Linkkila, Ann Lewis and Crystal Gebhardt; alternates Joyce St. Lawrence and Victoria Northrop (also acting as recording clerk); Director Lisa Kegler.

- 1. Irene Schein called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.** Joyce was seated as alternate for Shirley Rakos, Victoria was seated as alternate for Dawn Gilbert.
- 2. Audience for Citizens:** Janice Godaire and Sally Ireland were both present, non-voting, as they are awaiting their appointment as Board member and alternate member, respectively.
- 3. Minutes:** The minutes of the Board Meeting of February 6, 2024 were approved after a motion was initiated by Ellen and seconded by Ann. Crystal abstained as she had not been present in February.

4. Old Business

4a. Director's Report:

- a. Special Revenue Fund: \$36,591.87
- b. Cash on Hand: \$120.76
- c. Membership: 398
- d. Dues Collected for 2024 thus far: \$1,654
- e. Correspondence: None

Lisa informed the Board that 26 people have signed up for the upcoming Line Dancing Class, which will begin Thursday and run for four weeks initially. The Dixieland band that had been scheduled for Wednesday has been postponed. Lisa reminded everyone about the upcoming Celtic music at the Library on the 9th of March and a craft class (string art) that will take place soon. The podiatrist is not willing to come to the Center at this point due to having too few people to make the cost/benefit worthwhile, Janice offered some recommendations for alternatives.

Lisa would like to plan a trip to a baseball game for summer (most likely in July) at Dodd Stadium. The plan would be to attend a daytime game on a Sunday, which would include a buffet lunch before the game. The cost is \$30 for the ticket. Lisa is looking into the Center covering transportation for the seniors who are interested, but needs to find bus transportation that is accessible. Savino and Eastconn were mentioned.

Preparations for the plant sale on May 11 are in full swing (more details under Events and Activities).

4b. Art Committee Update

March: Marcia Donofrio is currently exhibiting

April: Sue Peifer

May: Ann Williams

June: Ellen's cousin

- Paul Winfrey (possibly July?)
- Bruce Raymond's photos (when he's back in the U.S.)
- A Parish Hill or Elementary School Show
- Pat Browne Retrospective
- Victoria Northrop

Lisa asked that people who need assistance hanging their work should make a request in advance for volunteers. Victoria will add this to the exhibit guidelines and send a copy to Lisa.

Lisa let the Board know that while Chaplin's Senior Center will no longer be offering painting classes, the Hampton Senior Center is doing so now. Several Board members also mentioned it might be a nice idea to have a "Paint & Sip" evening for the Center.

4c. Update on Facilities

The HVAC fine-tuning is still underway. Lisa says that there have been issues with the old ductwork harmonizing with the new system. The carpet cleaning has been slightly delayed due to timing with the town crew to move the heavier objects on the carpet. The water erosion problem has been addressed by having the gutters cleaned and additional drainage put in place. The cleanliness issues in the Community Room have been taken care of with janitorial services and additional oversight.

5. New Business

- a) Janice Godaire resigned from her position as alternate and is awaiting the Board of Selectmen's meeting to appoint her as a full member in the seat vacated by Jeanette Haines. Sally Ireland is also awaiting appointment as an alternate. That should take place on Thursday the 7th of March.

b) Round tables: Lisa is still actively looking for appropriate round tables at a good price point for the Mexican train card game players. The Board has already approved a budget for this.

c) **Events and activities:**

The chili cook-off was a big success, with 25+ participants and 80+ tasters. It brought some new faces to the center and helped with publicity. A St. Patrick's Day lunch will take place on March 13th

Lisa is looking for volunteers for the May 11 plant sale and Irene, Crystal, and Joyce all said they will be there. Victoria will create more labeled plant stakes for the seedlings. The Board agreed that the number of hanging baskets should be upped to 75 this year, as they sold very quickly, and that a volunteer should help people in the queue to total up their purchases before they reach the cashiers to help improve speed of service. Lisa says volunteers in matching aprons would be easier for the public to locate for questions and that 10-12 aprons would be useful. Lisa will also need help transplanting seedlings and moving the plants to the sale.

d) **Chorus Update:** Ellen says that the singing group is on break right now, but will perform at the Willimantic Senior Center on April 16th. She is planning a spring theme.

6. **Suggestions for Next Regular Meeting:** The Board would like to address publicity for the Center in the community, as not everyone eligible knows about the programs and assets the Center offers. The idea of a Welcoming Committee was addressed, as well as an Open House for new members.

7. **Next Meeting Date:** April 2, 2024 @ 10 a.m.

8. **Adjournment:** the meeting was adjourned at 10:51

Minutes submitted by Victoria Northrop, recording clerk